Salt Depot, Alleppey.

486. **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that there is a serious complaint among the merchants that the foreign salt imported at Alleppey contains much sand;

(*b*) whether they will make necessary arrangements for the inspection of salt now in the Salt Depot, Alleppey; and

(*c*) whether all the merchants can go and purchase salt from the Salt Depot?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No complaints have been received from the salt merchants that the foreign salt sold from the depot contains sand.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

(*c*) All *bona fide* salt merchants can purchase salt from the depot.

Coir mat and mattings.

487. **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware:

(*a*) that coir mats and mattings manufactured here are being consumed in foreign countries; and

(*b*) that the mat and matting industries here have to face keen competition in foreign countries, as some of the foreign countries have begun to manufacture coir mats and mattings?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) Almost the whole of the coir mats and matting manufactured in Travancore is exported. It is understood that mats and matting are produced in some countries of Europe and America.

Particulars re Industries of the State.

488. **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the names of the chief industries that are in existence in the State at present (14-11-1928);

(*b*) the number of factories or places for each of these industries; and

(*c*) the number of coolies and other employés working in each of these industries?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to pages 114 to 127 of the *Statistics of Travancore* (9th issue).

Oil-mill industry in the State.

489. **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that the oil-mill industry here is deteriorating day by day;

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